

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 EA-09 NEA-10 ISO-00 ARA-10
OES-07 HEW-06 AID-05 DHA-02 ORM-02 OMB-01 TRSE-00
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00
NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 /144 W
-----191823Z 088214 /47

R 191616Z MAY 77

FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7523

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 GENEVA 3940

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: WHO, PFOR, NEA

SUBJ: WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY (MAY 2-20) - THIRD AND FINAL WEEK

REFS: A) GENEVA 3753 (NOTAL), B) GENEVA 3907 (NOTAL), C)
GENEVA 3925 (NOTAL), D) GENEVA 3790 (NOTAL)

1. BEGIN SUMMARY. ASSEMBLY CLOSED ONE DAY EARLIER THAN
SCHEDULED, ON MAY 19, IN ATMOSPHERE OF GENERAL SATISFACTION
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OVER WORK ACCOMPLISHED. HIGHLIGHTS OF THIRD WEEK INCLUDED
FINAL VOTE ON MIDDLE EAST REFUGEES RESOLUTION, REAPPEARANCE
OF BERLIN ISSUE AND THAT OF VIETNAM ASSESSMENT, AND ADOPTION
OF SEVERAL RESOLUTIONS CONCERNING PRIORITY HEALTH
MATTERS SUCH AS SMALL POX, HEALTH MANPOWER AND MENTAL
HEALTH. NORTH-SOUTH TENSIONS WERE CONSIDERABLY LOWER
THAT AT LAST YEAR'S ASSEMBLY. END SUMMARY.

2. METHOD OF WORK. THIS ASSEMBLY TRIED OUT NEW APPROACH TO AGENDA INVOLVING SOMEWHAT GREATER DISCIPLINE IN DISCUSSIONS OF BUDGETARY QUESTIONS AND RELEGATION OF A MAJORITY OF DRAFT RESOLUTIONS NOT ON AGENDA TO SEPARATE PLACE IN DISCUSSIONS. THIS METHOD SEEMED TO SMOOTH WORK OF THE COMMITTEES AND IT RECEIVED ASSEMBLY ENDORSEMENT ON FINAL DAY. ONE APPARENT RESULT WAS THAT ASSEMBLY THIS YEAR ADOPTED ONLY 54 RESOLUTIONS, COMPARED TO 90 LAST YEAR.

3. MIDDLE EAST RESOLUTION. ARAB DELEGATIONS GOT 8 MORE VOTES THAN THEY DID IN COMMITTEE "B" IN ASSEMBLY ROLL CALL VOTE MAY 18 (REF B). RESOLUTION CONDEMNING ISRAEL FOR IGNORING PREVIOUS RESOLUTIONS OF WHA AND DEMANDING THAT GOI PERMIT WHO SPECIAL COMMITTEE TO VISIT OCCUPIED TERRITORIES WAS ADOPTED 74-23(US)-17. SENTIMENT AMONG DELEGATIONS ON BOTH SIDES OF THIS ISSUE WAS FAIRLY UNANIMOUS THAT WHA LIKELY TO VOTE ARTICLE 7 VOTE-SUSPENSION AGAINST ISRAEL NEXT YEAR UNLESS SPECIAL COMMITTEE IS ALLOWED TO CARRY OUT ITS MANDATE IN MEANTIME.

4. BERLIN. ON MAY 17 SOVIET DELEGATION CAUSED A SECOND LETTER (ADDRESSED TO WHA PRESIDENT) TO BE CIRCULATED TO DELEGATES IN WHICH IT EXPRESSED "FUNDAMENTAL DISAGREEMENT" WITH US/UK/FRENCH LETTER OF MAY 12 (REF A) REJECTING EARLIER SOVIET ASCERTAION CONCERNING PRESENCE OF WEST BERLIN OFFICIAL ON FRG DELEGATION. ON MAY 18 US/UK/FRENCH CIRCULATED REPLY TO SECOND SOVIET LETTER (REF C), AND UNCLASSIFIED

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FRG CIRCULATED SEPARATE LETTER TO WHA PRESIDENT SUPPORTING OUR REPLY. THE SUBJECT DID NOT COME TO THE FLOOR.

5. VIETNAM. HEAD OF SRVN DELEGATION SENT LETTER TO WHA PRESIDENT ON MAY 16 QUESTIONING DECISION OF WHA TO FIX VIETNAM ASSESSMENT ON BASIS OF RATE WHICH UN COMMITTEE ON CONTRIBUTIONS PROPOSES TO RECOMMEND TO UNGA NEXT FALL (RAF A). IN REPLY, PRESIDENT OF WHA POINTED OUT THAT WHA DECISION WAS PROVISIONAL AND, IN ANY CASE, UNDER RULES OF ASSEMBLY QUESTION WAS CLOSED, UNLESS 2/3 OF MEMBERS WANTED TO REOPEN IT. BOTH LETTERS WERE CIRCULATED TO DELEGATES, BUT MATTER DID NOT COME TO FLOOR.

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6. ETHIOPIA. ASSEMBLY AGREED TO REQUEST FROM ETHIOPIA TO TRANSFER FROM WHO'S EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN TO ITS AFRICAN REGION. ETHIOPIAN DELEGATION URGED THAT OTHER MEMBER COUNTRIES IN AFRICA THAT HAD NOT YET JOINED AFRICAN REGION DO SO, AND SEVERAL DELEGATIONS SUPPORTED THIS SUGGESTION. ("AFRICAN" COUNTRIES NOT IN WHO'S AFRICAN REGION ARE EGYPT, LIBYA, SOMALIA, SUDAN AND TUNISIA, WHICH ARE IN EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN REGION, AND ALGERIA AND MOROCCO, WHICH ARE IN THE EUROPEAN REGION.)
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7. SMALL POX. ASSEMBLY TOOK SOBER NOTE OF FACT THAT SMALLPOX STILL EXISTS IN "A SINGLE COUNTRY". NUMBER OF REPORTED CASES HAD RISEN TO ABOUT 300 IN MARCH. ASSEMBLY URGED "ALL GOVERNMENTS" TO MAKE FULL USE OF EXPERTISE OF NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL PERSONNEL WITH EXPERIENCE IN

SMALL POX SURVEILLANCE AND CONTAINMENT MEASURES. IN PRIVATE CONVERSATIONS WITH MEMBERS OF USDEL, SOMALI DEL SAID THAT EXPERTS FROM USG'S CENTER FOR DISEASE CONTROL, NOT PREVIOUSLY ADMITTED TO SOMALIA, WOULD NOW BE ACCEPTABLE AS MEMBERS OF WHO SMALLPOX TEAMS RENDERING ASSISTANCE IN CURRENT CAMPAIGN TO CONTROL THE EPIDEMIC AND ERADICATE THE DISEASE.

8. HEALTH MANPOWER. TWO TOPICS THAT STIMULATED LENGTHY DISCUSSION DEALT WITH PROBLEM OF IMPROVING CALIBER OF HEALTH PERSONNEL AT THE END OF THE CHAIN. ONE WAS HOW AND WHETHER TO UPGRADE SKILLS OF TRADITIONAL HEALERS. HERE CONSENSUS WAS THAT THERE ARE PITFALLS, BUT IT IS PROBABLY BEST WAY TO GO AND, IN SOME COUNTRIES, THE ONLY WAY FOR THE NEAR TERM. OTHER TOPIC WAS ROLE OF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY PERSONNEL IN PRIMARY HEALTH CARE TEAMS. CONSENSUS WAS THAT NURSING AND MIDWIFERY PERSONNEL COULD PLAY MORE IMPORTANT ROLE THAN AT PRESENT AND THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES AND SKILLS SHOULD BE EXPANDED AND UPGRADED. APPROPRIATE RESOLUTIONS WERE ADOPTED.

9. MENTAL HEALTH. RESOLUTION CO-SPONSORED BY US, CANADA, AUSTRALIA, USSR, INDIA AND SEVERAL AFRICAN MEMBERS NOTED WITH CONCERN THE MAGNITUDE AND SEVERITY OF PSYCHOSOCIAL STRESSES CURRENTLY FACING MANY POPULATIONS OF LDCS, PARTICULARLY IN SOUTHERN AFRICA. IT DREW STRONG SUPPORT FROM OTHER DELEGATIONS, ALONG WITH FAIRLY STRONG CONDEMNATION OF SOUTH AFRICA AND RHODESIA.

10. TECHNICAL COOPERATION: CUBA PROPOSED DRAFT RESOLUTION
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"ON BEHALF OF THE NON-ALIGNED AND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES" (REF D). ANNOUNCED THAT IT HAD BEEN DISCUSSED BY NAM AT COLOMBO, AND REVISED THEREAFTER. USDEL QUESTIONED USEFULNESS OF YET ANOTHER (THE 20TH) RESOLUTION ON TECHNICAL COOPERATION BUT EIGHT SPEAKERS INSISTED ON ITS VALUE IN LIGHT OF REORIENTATION OF WHO'S PROGRAM. IN ABSENCE OF ANY SUPPORT FOR US POSITION, RESOLUTION ADOPTED WITHOUT FORMAL VOTE.

11. ATMOSPHERICS. CONFRONTATIONAL TONE THAT CHARACTERIZED PARTS OF LAST YEAR'S PROCEEDINGS WAS NOTABLY ABSENT DURING THIS SESSION. G-77 MEMBERS INDICATED CONSIDERABLE SATISFACTION OVER PLANS THAT DG HAS DRAWN UP FOR REORIENTING PROGRAM/BUDGET IN ACCORDANCE WITH LAST YEAR'S 60-40 RESOLUTION. US ABSTENTION ON PROGRAM STRATEGY AND BUDGET LEVEL ISSUES WAS GREETED AMONG LDCS MORE WITH SORROW AND PUZZLEMENT THAN IRRITATION. PRESIDENT CARTER'S MESSAGE TO WHA PRESIDENT (REF A) AND SENATOR KENNEDY'S ADDRESS TO WHO STAFF ASSOCIATION PROVIDED CLEAR EVIDENCE TO ANY

DOUBTERS THAT US INTEREST IN AND SUPPORT FOR WHO IS
UNDIMINISHED.SORENSEN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
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